GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3129
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
Exploitation of Water Resources
Jaunpuria Shri Sukhbir Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to work out a plan to regulate excessive exploitation of water resources including groundwater to check water crisis in near future;
(b) if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government proposes to adopt new technologies for better utilization of water resources and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether the Government has discussed the matter with the Government of Rajasthan; and
(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) To tackle the water crisis in the country, the Central Government has taken the following steps:

â€¢ The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR (MoWR, RD & GR), inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/UTs and concerned Ministries/ Departments of the Central Government for adoption.

â€¢ MoWR, RD & GR has also launched 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' (2015-16 to 2017-18) in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the Country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. 'Jal Gram Yojana' component of 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' envisages selection of two villages in every district, preferably 'over-exploited' or facing acute water scarcity, as 'Jal Grams' to ensure optimum and sustainable utilization of water.

Contdâ€¦p/2

â€¢ Circulation of a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of the Model bill.
â€¢ Constitution of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) under "The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986" for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. So far, CGWA has notified 162 areas in the Country for the purpose of regulation of ground water.
â€¢ CGWA has also issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge of ground water / rain water harvesting. So far, 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in Building Bye-Laws or through suitable Government Orders. CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans, with community participation.

(c) & (d) As a matter of Policy, the Government is promoting use of Micro Irrigation (MI) such as Drip and Sprinkler in the projects that are part of AIBP / CAD & WM programme of Government of India. There is a mandatory condition of including minimum 10% of the command area to be covered under Micro Irrigation for inclusion in CAD & WM programme. A new scheme of MoWR RD & GR " Incentivization Scheme for Bridging Irrigation Gap (ISBIG) " is also being proposed which provides for use of Micro Irrigation (MI) in a minimum 30 % area in addition to use of pressurized pipe system for ensuring functioning of irrigation projects at the optimum level.

â€¢ Department of Science and Technology is trying to promote R&D for providing technological solutions to address various water challenges arising due to low per capita availability & water scarcity issues. To illustrate the developed solutions several projects have been supported in the state of Rajasthan for addressing water challenges like poor water quality (salinity, fluorides) and water scarcity.

(e) Preparation of a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013. The Master Plan envisages construction of 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country at an estimated cost of Rs.79, 178 crores to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Metre) of water. The Master Plan has been circulated to all the State Governments including Rajasthan for adoption.

*****